



OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY

KENTUCKY JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

ERNIE FLETCHER, GOVERNOR

STEPHEN B. PENCE, LT. GOVERNOR AND SECRETARY - JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

CLEVE GAMBILL, DEPUTY SECRETARY - JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

TERESA A. BARTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - ODCP

2ND QUARTER 2005

THIS ISSUE

Barton Addresses
ODCP Issues

Lt. Governor and
ODCP Director Tout
New Anti-meth Law

ODCP Providing
Funds for Drug Task
Forces, Treatment
and Education

Editorial: Sheriff
Keith Cain Speaks
Out on Growing Meth
Problem

Champions Coalition
Brings Honor Home

Y.E.S! Kentucky
Youth Join in Preven-
tion Efforts

OIG's Drug Enforce-
ment Branch Powers
Tools to Help Fight
Prescription Drug
Abuse, Diversion

ODCP Welcomes
New Personnel

ODCP NEWSLETTER

ODCP's newsletter
will now be quarterly.

Look for us again in
October.

BARTON ADDRESSES ODCP ISSUES



I recently spoke on a panel in Hazard with a gentleman who began his remarks with the quote from that famous day in 1970 when Apollo 13 was 200,000 miles from earth and an oxygen tank exploded. Coming from the spacecraft, one of the pilots said (paraphrased), "*Houston, we have a problem.*" The panelist also went on to say the drug abuse issue is much like that, "Kentucky, we have a problem." But the dialogue doesn't end there; the control booth responded at some point and said, "*Failure is not an option.*" While these catchphrases may have become trite, they are symbolic to the way of thinking that we have adopted at the Office of Drug Control Policy and for those involved at every level in the struggle. We do not accept failure because this is a fight we can't afford to lose. We need every Kentuckian to be healthy, so that as a state we can prosper in every facet of our lives.

As we look at what it takes to not fail, we must look at the people who need to step forward, take the lead, and make their contribution to this critical effort. Community coalitions, treatment specialists, judges, staff working in drug courts, professionals working as a team for a multi-jurisdiction task force and prevention experts all need funding. We must focus on how we can all do more with less money.

Federal funding is always an issue. I have received several pieces of correspondence, including an e-mail stating "The fiscal year '06 Science, Departments of State, Justice and Commerce, and related agencies appropriations bill needs to be restored to at least fiscal year 2005 funding. Drug enforcement at more than 80% of our nation's state police agencies, drug

units, local police drug units and multi-jurisdictional task forces will cease to exist and the public will be left unprotected from drugs and violent drug criminals." Although Byrne funding is a moving target, we must carefully monitor the bill and we need to keep calling until our representatives understand the urgency of the message.

There is some good news on the state budget front. In fiscal year '05-'06, included in the Office of Drug Control Policy budget is funding to help expand drug courts, provide pilot treatment and recovery projects in our local correctional facilities, support Operation UNITE's new treatment facilities, fund drug and substance abuse education for Eastern Kentucky schools, and supplement funding for existing multi-jurisdictional drug task forces.

House Bill 267 includes a General Fund appropriation of \$1 million dollars and another \$1 million in Restricted Funds (coal severance funds) for regional drug courts to be established in Kentucky's coal producing counties. According to the Governor's Office for Policy and Management, there are 38 coal-producing counties in Kentucky. In cooperation with the Administrative Office of the Courts, we directed the available funding to counties or circuits that are piloted, trained and ready. That includes 14 counties or 7 circuits who are ready to proceed with drug courts. Those announcements will be forthcoming.

Also included in the budget bill is a General Fund appropriation of \$1 million dollars for drug and substance abuse treatment for nonviolent offenders in local jails. This money is available to establish treatment and recovery services to local correctional/detention facilities provided to inmates, parolees, shock probationers, and halfway back participants. The grant is officially titled, "Community Corrections



Treatment/Recovery Pilot Program.” We received nine requests for funding. Those have been chosen and details will be announced soon.

A General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 has been provided for drug and substance abuse education programs for Eastern Kentucky school children. ODCP is partnering with the Kentucky Center for School Safety and the Kentucky School Boards Association to provide evidence-based/promising substance abuse prevention programs for the 2005-2006 school year. The programs will focus on the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse for elementary school-aged children. Specified curricula that meet the ODCP’s mandate to support evidence-based/promising programs will be identified. The identified curricula are also aligned with Kentucky’s Learning Goals and Academic Expectations that will assist in the Department of Education’s goal of reaching proficiency in 2014. The collaboration will implement, monitor, and evaluate the programs. Focus will be placed on those schools that are not currently offering evidence-based prevention programs.

Operation UNITE has \$1.5 million in this year’s budget for treatment facilities to be located in Pike and Clay Counties. The funds will be divided equally between the two projects and UNITE will oversee the funds for the construction of a facility by Visions of Eastern Kentucky and the use of funds by Westcare, Inc. for the operations of a treatment facility.

Through redirected funds in the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet \$500,000 is available to fund task forces that are experiencing substantial cuts in funding, particularly through the Byrne Grant. ODCP has met with and reviewed each existing task force and most are considering lay-offs or cutting services as a result of this reduced funding.

It is evident the administration and legislature understand the magnitude of problems with drug abuse in Kentucky and the funding through the state budget is confirmation we must work together to reduce drug use and related crimes.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ODCP DIRECTOR TOUT NEW ANTI-METH LAW



Lt. Governor Steve Pence and Executive Director Teresa Barton of the Office of Drug Control Policy spoke at a Bowling Green pharmacy in April about Kentucky’s new law to address the methamphetamine problem and how the legislation will change the way many consumers obtain their cold and allergy medicines.

Senate Bill 63, which Governor Ernie Fletcher signed into law in March, will make it harder for criminals to obtain pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient for meth production. Pseudoephedrine is also a common component of over-the-counter cold and allergy medications.

“Consumers will still be able to get the cold medications that they need, but now it will be more difficult for meth makers to buy or steal the pseudoephedrine to produce this deadly and highly addictive drug,” Lt. Governor Pence told local legislators and officials, law enforcement, the media and others at Nation’s Medicines in Bowling Green. “If we can keep meth cooks from getting enough of the pseudoephedrine, we can decrease the number of meth labs in our Commonwealth. Those labs are toxic and potentially explosive, and we must protect Kentucky families from that danger.”

As of June 20, only pharmacies – including those within retail stores – will be permitted to continue distributing products containing

pseudoephedrine, ephedrine or phenylpropanolamine in tablet, caplet or powder form. Ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine can also be used to make meth. Gel caps and liquids containing pseudoephedrine, ephedrine or phenylpropanolamine will not be affected by the legislation. Stores that do not contain pharmacies must have removed the affected items from their facilities by June 20.

More specific provisions of SB 63 say that:

- pharmacies will be required to store products containing pseudoephedrine, ephedrine or phenylpropanolamine in tablet, caplet or powder form in a secure location, such as in a locked case or behind the pharmacy counter
- shoppers will need to request the affected medications from a pharmacist, pharmacist technician or pharmacy intern, as they will be the only people allowed to distribute the products
- consumers will be permitted to purchase up to three boxes of the affected medications per transaction and up to 9 grams in a 30-day period. Nine grams equals approximately 300 30-milligram tablets
- customers will need to be at least 18 years old; present their photo identification, address and date of birth; and sign a log to obtain the medications

"The drugs affected by the new law do their job when they are used appropriately, but we have to address the fact that criminals are misusing them to manufacture meth," ODCP Executive Director Barton said. "This law is the result of the efforts of many people who are dedicated to combating the gravely serious meth problem in Kentucky, and we expect it to provide the change that it was designed to produce – fewer meth labs."

Statewide, the National Clandestine Laboratory Seizure System (NCLSS) reports that the number of meth labs increased by at least 3,000 percent in the last seven years – from 19 labs in 1998 to 579 labs in 2004. In the past two years, there have been more than 150 children discovered in meth labs in Kentucky. Meth labs have been

reported in 89 of our 120 counties. The average costs for cleaning up a meth lab is \$2,000 to \$5,000 per site.

The anti-meth legislation, which the General Assembly unanimously passed, also makes it a felony to expose children to meth labs and allows law enforcement to charge individuals with manufacturing meth if they show intent to make the drug and possess two or more chemicals or items of equipment necessary for its production.

The law also enhances the fight against prescription-drug abuse in Kentucky. It places regulations on Internet pharmacies that do business in the state, including requiring them to register with the state's Board of Pharmacy and use a drug-tracking system commonly known as KASPER.

ODCP PROVIDING FUNDS FOR DRUG TASK FORCES, TREATMENT & EDUCATION



Governor Fletcher and Lt. Governor Pence pose with Eddie Todd after Senate Bill 63 was signed in Booneville on March 13, 2005.

Eddie Todd's relationship with drugs started with marijuana and only worsened after he was prescribed painkillers for a high school football injury. He got hooked on the painkillers and then added cocaine to his habit. By the time he was 23, Todd was using, cooking and selling meth, a highly addictive

substance that is produced in toxic and potentially explosive labs in homes, vehicles, fields and other settings.

"I was raised up a normal kid in a normal home," Todd, now 27, told several hundred people at a ceremonial bill signing for Governor Ernie Fletcher's anti-meth legislation in March. "At the age of 14 or 15 I started using drugs thinking I was a unique person, thinking I would never get trapped or never get caught on drugs."

Todd is in his third year of recovery and helps lead a faith-based, peer recovery group for substance abusers, but there are still many Kentuckians who are abusing drugs and committing other crimes in the name of addiction.

The Office of Drug Control Policy, which Governor Fletcher created in September 2004 as the coordinating agency for substance abuse programs and issues in the state, has a plan to effectively address the drug problem in the Commonwealth through a balance of prevention, treatment and enforcement. During the 2005 general session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the legislature passed the first budget for the ODCP, allowing the relatively new agency to

move forward with many of its initiatives. Those initiatives include providing funds to assist law enforcement drug task forces and creating more substance abuse treatment opportunities for those who could benefit from that approach.

The legislature also passed Governor Fletcher's significant measure to address the problem of meth production in Kentucky. The ODCP helped draft and coordinate input on Senate Bill 63, which will make it more difficult for criminals to obtain the key ingredient for producing meth and will tackle other major issues associated with the drug.

"We were pleased with the outcome of our first session with the General Assembly," ODCP Executive Director Teresa Barton said. "We certainly consider it a success that the state now has a much needed law – a crime-prevention tool – to combat the growing number of meth labs in Kentucky, and the ODCP is excited about the opportunity to begin implementing programs that we have been planning to effectively impact the drug problem long-term."

Among the ODCP's plans is to award money to multijurisdictional law enforcement drug task forces across the state to help restore a portion of the federal dollars that the task forces have lost due to an approximately 39-percent decrease in funding in the past two years. By allocating a total of \$450,000 to the task forces, the ODCP estimates that it can restore approximately 15 percent of what they lost through the federal cuts.

"The ODCP is glad to have the opportunity to provide this assistance and will continue to search for funding sources to help drug task forces with their significant role in fighting the drug problem," said Van Ingram, who was police chief in Maysville and now works with the task forces through his job as head of ODCP's Compliance Branch.

Each task force that applied for funds from the ODCP will receive at least a 10-percent supplement to the amount they will be getting from the federal Justice Assistance Grant. Task forces that documented a need for assistance above the 10 percent, including those that planned to expand their service areas, were eligible to receive more funding. Money for the drug task forces was not included in the state's budget for fiscal year 2005-2006, but because there are funds in the budget to pay for other specific projects, the ODCP will be able to direct an allotment it has received from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to assist the task forces.

The state budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 earmarks funding to the ODCP for drug courts, substance abuse treatment for jails, a residential treatment facility and program in Eastern Kentucky and an education program for school children in that region. Funding for these programs became available July 1, and the ODCP is planning for each of them:

► DRUG COURTS

The budget provides \$2 million to the ODCP to establish drug courts in coal-producing counties.

Drug courts divert some non-violent drug addicts from the prison system into treatment and are established by judicial circuits rather than by county.

Counties in circuits that will be getting the adult drug courts are Hopkins, Crittenden/Union/Webster, Boyd, Carter/Elliott, Butler/Hancock/Ohio/Edmonson, McClean/Muhlenberg and Henderson.

\$1 million dollars for the adult drug courts is from the state's coal-severance tax and the other \$1 million is from the state's General Fund.

Coal-severance tax funds are paid by coal companies and are usually distributed by the state for industrial development in coal-producing counties. During the 2005 General Assembly, the legislature approved a provision allowing the funds to be used for public health and safety and other purposes. The ODCP is working with the state's Administrative Office of the Courts to plan for the drug courts.

► JAIL TREATMENT PROGRAMS

The ODCP will be awarding grants of \$30,000 to \$69,000 to eight local jails for substance abuse treatment programs for inmates, parolees, shock probationers and halfway back program participants.

Five of the grants will be for jails to pilot new substance abuse programs, and three local jails will receive grants to enhance their existing programs.

Counties that will soon be getting money for new programs are Mason, Marion, Kenton, Hopkins and Grayson. Christian, Hardin and Daviess counties will receive funds for their existing programs.

The state budget provides \$1 million for this project. The total amount awarded for one year will be \$500,000, and the jails will be eligible to apply for funds for a second year.

► TREATMENT FUNDS FOR OPERATION UNITE

The budget includes \$1.5 million in coal-severance funds for Operation Unlawful Narcotics Investigation Treatment and Education (Operation UNITE), which is a multifaceted, comprehensive approach to combating drugs in eastern and southern Kentucky.



UNITE will divide the \$1.5 million equally between Clay and Pike counties for construction of a treatment facility in Manchester and operation of an existing treatment facility in Pikeville. The funds will supplement the \$1.5 million that U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers secured in the federal budget for the treatment facilities.

► DRUG EDUCATION FOR EASTERN KENTUCKY SCHOOL CHILDREN

The ODCP is working with the Kentucky Center for School Safety and the Kentucky School Boards Association to develop evidence-based drug prevention programs for school children in Eastern Kentucky for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years. The programs will target fifth-graders. The state's budget includes \$500,000 for this project.

Meanwhile, the ODCP is also planning a summit for narcotics officers throughout the state for November 9 and 10 in Lexington. The agency will distribute more information about this event in the future.

EDITORIALS

► ***Barton Addresses New Meth Law and Future Expansion***

Senate Bill 63, better known as the anti-meth legislation became effective June 20 in Kentucky. While I am extremely optimistic the number of small meth labs will plunge in the upcoming year, as it has in Oklahoma and Oregon, it is time we look at the bigger picture and ask Congress to expand this type of legislation nationwide. There are at least 30 other states considering similar legislation and at least 12 states require those cold medicines with pseudoephedrine to be placed behind the counter at the pharmacy.

It is obvious that a patchwork of state laws will be circumvented and beaten by meth cooks. Kentucky cannot beat its meth problem if drug cooks can still grab pseudoephedrine from open counters in surrounding states without these laws. In early June the Oregon Legislature considered a bill that would *ban* the sale of cold pills containing pseudoephedrine. Only liquid and gel cap cold products containing pseudoephedrine, which are more difficult to convert to meth, would be allowed in Oregon. While a ban has some appeal, it would be a drastic move.

Pseudoephedrine is manufactured in only a handful of plants worldwide. Congress and the White House must confront the global trade. But if retail controls can not stop the Mexican cartels that make most of the meth, they will at least cut off the supply of pseudoephedrine to the low-level cooks that spread so much human misery and environmental pollution throughout our communities.

The methamphetamine epidemic like all serious problems must be addressed with a multi-faceted approach. By restricting the access to pseudoephedrine we can prevent many cooks from obtaining this key ingredient necessary to manufacturing meth. Simply incarcerating users has created an ever increasing number of overcrowded jails, broken families and children in foster care needing medical care caused by their exposure to labs. How can we afford to not push for this legislation?

► ***Sheriff Speaks Out on Growing Meth Problem in Kentucky***

Sheriff Keith Cain
Daviess County

The growing availability of methamphetamine, as a result of the clandestine manufacturing of the drug has become a serious challenge to local law enforcement. These “labs” are make-shift operations that produce high quality meth, using a simple methodology, yet are extremely unstable and volatile.

As the quantity of the drug increases, so does the potential for its abuse. Methamphetamine increases crime, particularly violent crime, as unpredictable aggressive behavior is symptomatic with its use, its addictive qualities turn seemingly normal lives into nightmares.

Take into consideration these accounts from my community:

A mother appeared in court on a custody hearing under the influence of meth. Upon her arrest she was determined to be in possession of more of the drug.

A prominent young man stood for sentencing in U.S. District Court having been sentenced to thirty years in federal prison for “cooking meth.” He turned to his family and exclaimed, “You thought you were helping me when you bonded me from jail. But when you brought me home from rehab, you weren’t. My desire for the drug was stronger than ever.”

A mother chose to give up her daughter for adoption rather than enter a long term treatment facility to combat her addiction.

A young couple whose lives were changed forever when a person driving under the influence of meth, crossed the center line, seriously injuring both parents, they lived, but their unborn child did not.

And finally, a young man who was so caught up in the jaws of addiction that he placed a firearm to his head and pulled the trigger, while his pregnant fiancé and their child watched.

Tragedies such as these better illustrate than words or statistics the devastation and destruction of methamphetamine. The problem is such that it is deserving of our best collective efforts. Such were the findings of the Governor’s Drug Summit last spring, a comprehensive approach addressing not only law enforcement but preventive and rehabilitative efforts as well.

One such initiative is Senate Bill 63. This bill, sponsored by Robert Stivers, with the support of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and Office of Drug Control Policy, addresses the problem on a number of fronts. Senate Bill 63 limits the availability of pseudoephedrine by restricting the amount that can be purchased to nine grams from the current 24 gram limit. The bill also mandates that the drug can only be dispensed by a pharmacist or pharmacist technician. These

persons will be required to keep a log of anyone who purchases the drug. The records will be subject to inspection by local, state and federal law enforcement officials.

At a recent hearing of the House Judiciary Committee, one member suggested the examination of these records raised fourth amendment issues. It is important to note that similar laws are currently in effect regulating controlled substances (and even hypodermic needles). Others suggested this move would restrict locally owned convenient stores that have no pharmacy, from dispensing the drug. Certainly this would result, however the intent of the legislation, again, is to limit the drug availability. Surveillance of such locations by our officers over a two week period alone has resulted in fourteen persons being charged with this illegal practice. Four were determined to be in possession of meth when arrested and two of those persons were determined to have prior meth related convictions.

Concern has also been expressed by some that this bill will result in persons not being able to obtain these over the counter cold remedies after hours. This bill addresses only hard dose tablets containing pseudoephedrine, not gel caps or liquid medication, neither of which lends itself to the meth manufacturing process. Indeed there has been mention of the sacrifice the legitimate consumer will be called upon to make. While granted there will be some inconvenience to the consumer and perhaps a concession on the part of the retailers, neither in my opinion constitutes a sacrifice.

Senate Bill 63 also calls for enhanced penalties of those persons convicted of manufacturing meth in close proximity to our children. These makeshift labs are extremely dangerous. They emit toxic vapors, poisonous gasses and are extremely volatile. Recently, a young man in Daviess County awaiting sentencing on a meth related conviction lost his life in the explosion. Two months later the man's fiancé was arrested at yet another lab, also present was her five year old daughter and three year old son. We are also currently unaware of the long term carcinogenic effects these chemicals will have on those who encounter them. How could anyone argue the need for the protection of our innocent?

A Look at Sheriff Keith Cain.....

Sheriff Keith Cain has served with the Daviess County Sheriff's Department since 1974. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Kentucky Wesleyan College and a Master of Arts in Education from Western Kentucky University. Sheriff Cain is also a graduate of both the FBI National Academy and the National Sheriff's Institute. Sheriff Cain's career includes supervision of numerous high profile investigations and his work experience includes extensive Narcotics Investigations, both in an undercover capacity and as a case investigator. Sheriff Cain's awards include numerous citations, letters of merit and the American Police Hall of Fame's "Silver Star for Bravery." He also serves as a member of the US Department of Justice Anti-Terrorism Task Force representing the Western District of Kentucky.

Senate Bill 63 also addresses the confusion created in a recent appellate court decision that "interprets" existing statutory language to require law enforcement to locate "all" of the components to manufacture meth before successfully prosecuting them. As previously indicated, manufacturing meth is a very simple procedure, allowing the "cooker" to follow step by step procedure. The entrepreneurs of this criminal activity have learned to render the meth at different locations to circumvent the existing laws.

Senate Bill 63 now allows the prosecution of persons manufacturing meth if they show the intent to make the drug and possess two or more chemicals or items of equipment necessary for production. Opponents of the bill have indicated this "intent" would not be addressed until the defendant goes to court, post arrest. This argument is without merit, as "intent" is the first element of the crime. Law enforcement, for example, police and prosecutors, would have to establish the same probable cause standard we are held to on any other criminal arrest before a person could be formally charged under the law.

Finally Senate Bill 63 has been amended to contain elements of Attorney General Greg Stumbo's House Bill 343 which regulate internet pharmacies that sell drugs, including meth ingredients, to state residents. This is a necessary measure that would ensure our Commonwealth does not become a depository for any number of illegal substances currently available through that venue.

Senate Bill 63 is evidence of this administration's resolve to not only do something, but to do something that has a proven record of success. Oklahoma passed similar legislation in 2004. Within eight months the state documented a fifty percent reduction in methamphetamine labs.

Senate Bill 63 is not or should not be viewed as a panacea that will eliminate meth from our communities. It will however provide law enforcement with a more effective means to rid our Commonwealth of this menace.

If you are interested in writing an editorial for our Newsletter, please contact Stacy Floden with The Office of Drug Control Policy at 502-564-9564 or 1-888-414-ODCP.

KY CHAMPIONS COALITION BRINGS HOME TOP HONOR

Boyd and Greenup County Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky recently received a national award for reducing substance abuse in its communities with an evidence-based program. Only two coalitions in the country were selected for the honor.

The Ashland-based group, which focuses on preventing and decreasing drug use, was chosen from a field of 40 applicants for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's GOT Outcomes! Coalition of Excellence Award based on its implementation of a national, anti-drug program for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. This was the first year for the CADCA award.

"We are so fortunate here in Kentucky to have a wonderful network of anti-drug community coalitions," said Teresa Barton, Executive Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy. "It is such an honor to all of us when one of them receives national acclaim. We are proud of the Boyd and Greenup County Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky."

More than 3,000 substance-abuse prevention and treatment specialists from around the country were on hand Jan. 13 when Gen. Arthur T. Dean, CADCA Chairman and CEO, presented the award to the Kentucky coalition and a Marin County, Ca., group at the Washington Convention Center during the CADCA National Leadership Forum.

"These organizations exemplify the excellent work that coalitions are doing around the country to prevent and reduce drug use in their communities," Dean said. "By using sound and strategic practices, these coalitions are building safe and drug-free communities."

Boyd and Greenup County Champions was selected for the honor because of its work with Project Northland, a national, anti-drug model program.

The Kentucky coalition provided the program curriculum to six school districts in Boyd and Greenup counties and trained teachers and counselors on how to use the program, said Ricky Kirk, the coalition's project coordinator.

Since Champions began Project Northland in the schools in 1999, 2,500 sixth- to eighth-graders have benefited from the program each year, Kirk said.

Project Northland is a research-based prevention program that is unique in that it uses peer-led instruction and parental involvement to teach youth to stay away from alcohol and other drugs. It also has a component that equips youth with information to help them resist peer pressure.



Boyd and Greenup County Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky wins a national award at a conference in Washington.

Ronne Nunley, Director of the ALERT Regional Prevention Center in northeast Kentucky, has guided and provided technical assistance to the Boyd and Greenup County Champions toward their success with Project Northland as well as other community initiatives.

"Of course we are particularly proud of the award because it represents recognition for achieving measurable prevention outcomes and demonstrates that prevention works," she said.

The Boyd and Greenup County Champions for a Drug Free Kentucky organized and began its volunteer work in the community nearly 20 years ago. Since then the coalition has grown to include educators, community agencies, health-care organizations, businesses, media, law enforcement, parents, youth, and citizens concerned about youth substance abuse from Boyd and Greenup counties.

The coalition was a Governor's Kentucky Incentives for Prevention (KIP) project from 1998 to 2001, coordinating the Boyd and Greenup County Youth Alcohol Initiative. In 2001, the coalition was awarded a Drug Free Communities Support Grant to continue the work of the initiative. The Boyd and Greenup County Champions also sponsor a youth advisory board and the Ashland Alcohol Policy Task Force.

In addition, the coalition administers the KIP student survey, delivers research-based curricula for third- through eighth-graders in six public school districts, sponsors mock alcohol compliance checks and responsible beverage training, tobacco vendor education and Free 4 the Weekend, an activity for students in participating schools.

CONFERENCE ALERT!

The Office of Drug Control Policy, along with the Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Narcotics Officer's Association and the Regional Organized Crime Information Center will host the first Kentucky Narcotic Officer's Conference at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington, Kentucky on November 9 and 10, 2005.

Law enforcement officers throughout the Commonwealth are encouraged to attend the training sessions and hear speakers such

as Gilberto Gonzales who is with the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. Mr. Gonzales will speak about Mexican drug cartels. This will be a very informative conference and will give narcotic officers from across the state a chance to network in a central location.

The registration deadline is October 15, 2005. For a registration form, please contact Debbie Spaulding at (502) 564-8289 or Debbie.Spaulding@ky.gov.

Coming in February, 2006

A Student Drug Testing Summit will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, on February 28, 2006. The Summit will help determine the legal issues, policies, implications and funding for drug testing in schools. Mary Ann Solberg, Deputy Director of the Office of National Drug

Control Policy, will be the key note speaker for the upcoming Summit. Look for more information in the upcoming quarterly newsletters.

Y.E.S! KENTUCKY YOUTH JOIN IN PREVENTION EFFORTS

Last summer a group of youth who attend Perry Central High School in Hazard, Kentucky came together to form an anti-drug coalition known as the Commodores Against Substance Abuse or "CASA." Led by Jerry Wyrick, a Prevention Specialist employed at Kentucky River Community Care and a Y.E.S.! (Youth Empowerment System) Youth Coalition sponsor, the group has successfully implemented environmental prevention efforts in their school and their community. They began with a project called "Honors Bathroom" at Perry Central High School. The coalition members were in agreement that there was a problem with the smoke-filled bathrooms in their high school and began working toward a solution. They were able to get the Days Inn in Hazard to donate card locks for the bathroom doors and they are now in the process of obtaining smoke detectors for all the school's bathrooms. CASA also plans to implement a monitoring program that will allow their 60+ members to go into elementary schools and talk to young students about the negative effects of using drugs. "I strongly recommend that every county work diligently in establishing Y.E.S.! Youth Coalitions. It is one of the most rewarding groups you can work with", according to Jerry Wyrick.

There are over 70 Y.E.S.! Youth Coalitions active in prevention efforts across the Commonwealth. Y.E.S.! is the Youth Empowerment System. It is a community-based youth development program and was chosen by a group of Kentucky Regional Prevention Center Directors as the model that would fill the gap in youth involvement in prevention efforts in Kentucky. Karen Hall, Y.E.S.! Steering Committee Chairperson says, "it has truly been exciting to be a

part of getting the Kentucky Youth Empowerment System out of the planning stage and into a fully functioning system." According to Ms. Hall the function of the Y.E.S.! Steering Committee is to support and fund youth coalitions that want to do substance abuse prevention activities. Over fifty groups have been funded through mini grants in this fiscal year. There will be about \$76,000 available for mini grants for this coming year; and we are expecting even more youth coalitions will apply for funding of prevention activities. Y.E.S.! Youth Coalitions are required to submit progress reports to the steering committee to determine eligibility for funding.

Kentucky youth become involved in Y.E.S.! through school-based or community-based groups mobilized by the Regional Prevention Centers. The role of the Y.E.S.! Youth Coalitions is similar to that of the adult Champions Coalition members. The desired outcome of the Kentucky Youth Empowerment System is "through youth engagement, build capacity to plan, implement, and evaluate substance abuse prevention strategies in the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

Author's Note: The ODCP encourages Kentucky Youth to get involved in a Y.E.S. Youth Coalition. The members of CASA in Perry County are an example of how our young people are willing to give of their time and work hard to make a positive difference in the lives of all Kentuckians. Kentucky youth who become involved in a Y.E.S.! Youth Coalition will become our best defense against substance abuse in Kentucky in the future.

CABINET FOR HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES POWERS THE TOOLS THAT HELP FIGHT PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE, DIVERSION

The Enhanced Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting program, known as eKASPER, was introduced to the public March 16 at a news conference.

The self-service, web-based system for tracking addictive controlled substances is the first of its kind in the nation, making it possible for doctors, pharmacists, law enforcement officials and other registered users to obtain KASPER reports virtually on demand at any time.

eKASPER is a program of the cabinet's Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch of the Office of Inspector General's Division of Fraud, Waste and Abuse Identification and Prevention. The Division is led by director Zach Ramsey and is the OIG's primary intelligence and recovery division.

The 11-member Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch, headed by branch manager Dave Sallengs, administers the Kentucky Controlled Substances Act (KRS 218A) and has a tremendous impact on the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Commonwealth, according to CHFS Inspector General Robert Benvenuti.

In addition to the more than 150,000 KASPER reports that will be produced this year, the branch is managing in excess of 200 ongoing prescription drug investigations, works with the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure on investigations of physician misconduct, consults with various public health initiatives on drug-related matters, collects fees and issues licenses to controlled substances manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors and handles more than 300 phone calls per month regarding its array of functions. The ability of branch staff to handle such a demanding workload is, "impressive to say the least," Benvenuti said.

The branch was honored for its performance in 2003 as recipient of the state Department for Public Health Commissioner's Group Award of Excellence. Sallengs said he nominated his staff for their professionalism and determination to make KASPER a national model for drug diversion detection and prevention.

"Without these people, KASPER wouldn't exist," Sallengs said.

As varied as the branch's duties may seem, all its functions are directed toward the goals of combating prescription drug abuse and diversion and improving patient care. Benvenuti said eKASPER is one of the most effective and efficient tools available to help achieve those goals.

The rapid reporting provided by eKASPER now makes it possible for:

- a physician to discuss a potential addiction with a patient before the patient leaves the physician's office;
- a law enforcement officer to work a half-dozen drug diversion cases in the time once spent on a single case;
- an emergency room physician to obtain a report at 2 a.m. and prevent an overdose; and
- a pharmacist to prevent a suspicious prescription from being handed to a drug dealer.

Benvenuti added that as powerful and useful an instrument as eKASPER is, the system's most profound value lies with its human components. eKASPER "will never place itself in harm's way to conduct an investigation or to make an arrest; it will never persuade a patient to get treatment for an addiction; it will never refuse to fill an illicit prescription in the face of furious, even violent protest; it will never confront providers about their prescribing patterns; and it will never give up personal time with family and friends to find creative solutions to combat prescription drug abuse, to complete a difficult investigation, serve on a task force or prosecute a criminal case," he said.

"The eKASPER system is a great crime fighting tool that police officers can use to help curtail the illegal use and spread of certain prescription drugs in Kentucky," said Lieutenant Governor Steve Pence, Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. "This real time, Web-based tool is designed to prevent doctor shopping by drug addicts. Instead of waiting days for a report, officers can have it in a matter of minutes. A quick turnaround time will aid officers in the apprehension of offenders."

Pharmacists, physicians, law enforcement and staff of the cabinet's Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch and the Division of Fraud, Waste and Abuse Identification and Prevention who work daily to make a difference in the health, safety, and welfare of Kentuckians by helping detect, prevent and eliminate prescription drug abuse "deserve the admiration of all Kentuckians," Benvenuti said.

For more information on eKASPER, contact the Drug Enforcement and Professionals Practices Branch at 502/564-7985 or visit <http://chfs.ky.gov/oig/dfwaip.htm>.

ODCP WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES



Stacy Floden joined the Office of Drug Control Policy May 16 as the Information Office Supervisor. She previously worked for Kentucky Emergency Management in a similar role for two years. Stacy also worked for WKYT

Television in Lexington as the Weekend Sports Anchor. Stacy has an extensive background in communications and public relations. She holds a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Communications from Western Kentucky University.



Jaime Downey joined the Office of Drug Control Policy June 16 as an Office Support Assistant. She previously worked as a temp for the state as a telephone operator. Jaime also worked for four years as a Loan Processing

Specialist for Bank One/JP Morgan. Jaime will be answering the telephone and performing many other duties for the Office of Drug Control Policy.

Office of Drug Control Policy
Justice & Public Safety Cabinet
125 Holmes Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601